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Der Informationsdienst.

BALKAN MILITARY PREPARATIONS

Der Informationsdienst, which describes itself as an independent, supraparty information service, claims that the following report is based on official sources.

Balkan Countries' Violations of the Military Provisions of the Peace Treaties

It is well known that the governments of Rumania, Hungary, and Bulgaria, with the tacit approval of the Soviet government, have violated all of the military provisions of their peace treaties. They had already done so secretly in 1948 and 1949.

It is very difficult to determine precisely to what extent these countries have violated the provisions of their peace treaties, and how large their armies are at present. The present military strength of these countries, however, can be approximated from press reports and interrogations of refugees and terrorists, on the basis of population statistics.

1. Violations of the effective strengths as provided in Article 9 of the Bulgarian peace treaty, Article 11 of the Rumanian peace treaty, and Article 12 of the Hungarian peace treaty.

The terms of the peace treaty with Hungary permitted her a maximum strength of 70,000 men. Yet, in the summer of 1951; Hungary had 13 divisions, seven of which were stationed on the Yugoslav border, and an actual strength of 200,000 men. In addition, she had 50,000 men in units subordinate to the Ministry of Interior.

The terms of the peace treaty with Rumania permitted her a raximum strength of 138,000 men. In the summer of 1951, however, she had 19 divisions, nine of which were stationed on the Yugoslav border, and an actual strength of 290,000 men. In addition, she had 140,000 men in units subordinate to the Ministry of Interior.

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The terms of the peace treaty with Bulgaria permitted her a maximum strength of 65,500 men. Yet, in the summer of 1951, Bulgaria had 18 divisions, eight of which were stationed on the Yugoslav border, and an actual strength of 220,000 men.

To the above totals must be added the number of men in Soviet units stationed in Rumania and Hungary, a total so large that it cannot be justified as necessary for the maintenance of Soviet supply lines to Austria.

2. Military training of men over and above the effective military strength, and training of men not attached to military units, a procedure forbidden by the peace treaties (Article 11 of the Bulgarian treaty, Article 13 of the Rumanian treaty, and Article 14 of the Hungarian treaty).

Under cover of the so-called labor service, the Bulgarian government, following the proven example of its predecessors during the period between the two world wars, has been disguising the actual strength of its armed forces. Hungary, likewise, has hidden its military strength within semimilitary organizations, an inordinately large police force, and border patrol units. Rumania has followed a similar course in setting up armed special units subordinate to the Ministry of Interior.

At present, the peace treaties are being violated, insofar as army strengths are concerned, and the period of military service is being extended by statute to a minimum of 2 years, to provide a larger standing army (for example, in Rumania, by the enforcement of law No 164, dated 16 September 1950).

3. The procurement and production of weapons which are forbidden by the peace treaties (Articles 9 and 14 of the Bulgarian treaty, Articles 12, 16, and 19 of the treaty with Hungary, and Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the treaty with Rumania).

The peace treaties forbid the production and procurement of war materiel in quantities greater than necessary for the approved armed forces. This stipulation has been violated. For example, Bulgaria currently has 400 aircraft (instead of the 90 which had been approved), most of them of Soviet construction, and including bombers, which are expressly prohibited by the peace treaty. She also possesses 400 tanks of Soviet origin. Hungary has at least one armored division and one air division, according to reliable reports.

Hungarian and Rumanian laborers who fled to Yugo-lavia reported that factories in Gyor, Csepel, and elsewhere are producing small arms, as well as tanks and aircraft, that the Ceradest aircraft factory in Bucharest is producing aircraft parts, and that the Malaxa factory in Bucharest produces various types of weapons. The Pirotehnica aeronautic factory in Bucharest is working on armament production, and mine layers and minesweepers are being built at the "I May" shipyards at Turnu Severin.

Balkan Countries' Preparations for Military Action Against Yugoslavia

The first demonstrative movements of sizable armed troop units occurred on the border of Yugoslavia during the period in which the USSR, in its note of 18 August 1949, warned Yugoslavia that the Soviet government "would be forced to employ other, more effective, measures." Rumanian and Hungarian units, as well as Soviet units, took part in the demonstrations along the Yugoslav border. Troop movements were simultaneously carried on in Bulgaria and Albania.

The armies of Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Albania normally go into bivouse in the vicinity of the Yugoslav border. They also conduct military

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exercises and large-scale maneuvers, most of them with the line of attack toward Yugoslav territory. For example, during the period from 6 to 28 September 1950, Rungarian Army maneuvers, involving aircraft, tanks, and units of the Danube fleet, were carried out in the area between the Danube and Tisza rivers, a mere 20-30 kilometers from the Yugoslav border, in the presence of Farkas, Minister of the Army. Istvan Radi, an officer candidate in the Hungarian Army who had participated in these maneuvers, fled to Yugoslavia. He stated during his interrogation on 20 September 1951 that the maneuver problem had been the defense of Hungary's southern border, the crossing of the border during counterattack, and the pursuit of the Yugoslav troop units deep into Yugoslav territory.

This activity reached its climax on Hungarian Army Day, 29 September 1951. At that time, large-scale fall maneuvers, involving all branches of the armed forces, were carried out in the same strategic direction as in the previous year, in the presence of military leaders from several of the other countries of the Soviet bloc. Military parades were held in some of the border cities after the maneuvers.

Similar irregularities existed on the Rumanian-Yugoslav border. Numerous Rumanian and Soviet military units were carrying out troop movements and maneuvers along almost the entire Rumanian-Yugoslav border and in the vicinity of the border towns, particularly during the summer.

In Bulgaria alone, 13 large-scale troop movements took place during the period from 5 May to 23 July 1950, and on 3 May of that year, 80 tanks left Sofia in broad daylight and drove along the main highway in the direction of the Yugoslav border.

According to eyewitnesses, the Bulgarians put on their greatest military demonstrations along the Yugoslav border during September and October 1950 in the form of large-scale maneuvers in the Struma Valley in the vicinity of Kyustendil (with the 7th Infantry Division), and during October, in the triangle composed of Vidin, Kula, and Vratsa with the 6th Infantry Division and parts of the Fourth Army. Soviet officers and generals also observed these maneuvers. At the same time, large groups of Bulgarian and Soviet officers visited the border area, took photos and made topographical surveys. Furing 1951, almost all of the Bulgarian units were stationed within 35 kilometers of the Yugoslav border along its entire length, and subsequently were moved westward, even closer to the border. Throughout this period, these units worked untensively on the construction of permanent emplacements for atomic and other heavy weapons, as well as on fortifications. The population of the border areas is being resettled. The Bulgarians have widened and paved the highways leading to Yugoslavia, and have reinforced the bridges to a capacity of over 40 tons.

The Hungarians are hastily improving the fortifications built during the Horthy regime, which were utilized during World War II, particularly the fortifications in the Pecs-Kaposvar-Nagykanizsa area.

The number of airfields which have been built, improved, or expanded in these countries in recent years far exceeds the requirements of their air forces. It is evident that the airfields in Bulgaria and Rumania in particular are intended to serve as air bases for a major foreign power. Bulgaria has more than 17 airfields. Rumania had only 23 airfields up to 1947, whereas today she has approximately 60, of which 18 are under construction. In Hungary, construction of new airfields has also been started and some of the older fields are being rebuilt to accommodate jet planes.

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An impartial international inspection, which governments would not permit on the grounds that it would constitute "illegal intervention in internal affairs," would confirm this report on violations of the military clauses of the peace treaties, and on the current preparations for military aggression against Yugo-slavia.

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